

Application No.: 10/509,579Docket No.: 4495-078**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-19 have been added to the application. Claims 1-9 have been cancelled.

The specification has been amended to correspond with new claims 10-19.

Claims 709 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being an improper form. In response, these claims have been cancelled, and accordingly this objection should be withdrawn.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, claim 2 has been cancelled, and accordingly this objection should be withdrawn.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being on patentable over Mendenhall (U.S. Pat. 4,806,371) in view of Igota et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,121,597). In response, claim 1 has been replaced by new claim 10 which is believed patentable for the reasons discussed below.

New claim 10 is directed to a container having a pressure-releasing part that is adhered to the container body with weak adhesion force in such a way that a part of the cover is exfoliated by vapor pressure that is generated inside the container when the container is heated by external heating means. Advantageously, this enables cooking to be performed while maintaining the appropriate moisture content of the foods and the container can be opened easily during microwaving. Further, claim 10 has a seasoning packet, which is opened by vapor pressure generated during heating with the energy being directly generated from the heating means.

Although Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of cancelled claim 1, because the Examiner has failed to point to any teaching in either of the references for making the combination other than stating that the combination would be obvious, Applicant has replaced claim 1 with new claim 10. This combination is not supported by any teaching in either of the references for making this combination.

Claim 10 includes a seasoning packet having a projected tab grippable. By fingers and having an exfoliation part, whose adhesion force is weak and is openable by vapor pressure generated by heating energy directly received from the heating means so the liquid seasoning inside the container can flow out and season the food ingredients inside the container. In previous claim 6, the Examiner applied Martel et al. and conceded that neither Mendenhall, Igota

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et al. nor Japan 11-334770 shows seasoning inside a cover portion. In Martel et al., the butter is melted and flows out of the butter dispenser 38, primarily to heat from vapor and gas which rises from the hot popcorn beneath the metal dipper 40 (col. 5, lines 26-34). Because the dipper 40 is made from metal, it, would not be appropriate to use in a microwave (col. 5, line 26). In the present invention, the seasoning packet is primarily opened due to microwave energy.

For all of these reasons, claim 10 is patentable over this combination of references. New claims 11-19 recite additional, important limitations and are patentable for the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 10, as well as on their own merits. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

New claim 11 has the seasoning packet connectged with the cover, which provides the advantage of simultaneously removing the seasoning packet when the cover is open so that a user can avoid dirtying his or her fingers. New claims 12 and 13 have the seasoning packet being formed of an edible material so the seasoning packet may not be connected to the cover and can remain after heating and be eaten.

Claims 2, 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being on patentable over Mendenhall in view of Igota et al. and further in view of Japan 11-334770. This rejection is now moot because claims 2, 3 and 5 are cancelled..

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being on patentable over Mendenhall in view of Igota et al. and further in view of Japan 11-334770 and further in view of Grindrod (US Pat. 5,345,069). This rejection is now moot because claim 4 is cancelled.

Claims 6 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) patentable over Mendenhall in view of Igota et al. and further in view of Japan 11-334770 and further in view of Grindrod and further in view of Martel et al. This rejection is now moot because claim 6 is canceled.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including

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extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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